

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2014

Contact: Dain Weister
407-858-1429

NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK (NIIW)

-Parents are encouraged to make sure infants are vaccinated-

ORLANDO – The Florida Department of Health in Orange and Seminole Counties are recognizing this week, April 26 – May 3, 2014, as *National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)* by encouraging parents to make sure their infant is up-to-date on immunizations to protect them from vaccine-preventable diseases. National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to improve the health of children two years old or younger. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of NIIW and the theme is *"Immunization. Power to Protect."*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that vaccinations will prevent more than 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years. Despite the U.S. immunization program's success, according to CDC officials, 129 people in the U.S. have been reported to have measles this year in 13 outbreaks, as of April 18, 2014.

"Immunization is a shared responsibility. Families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials must work together to help protect the entire community," said Dr. Kevin M. Sherin, Director of the Department of Health in Orange County.

The health departments across Central Florida continue to work with private doctors and community health centers to help ensure that patients seek services through a medical provider home, particularly those patients who have private insurance or are enrolled in the Healthy Kids Program and Medikids which is provided by the Florida KidCare program.

"It's important for people that have insurance to take their kids to their primary care doctor for vaccines. It's also equally important for primary care physicians to stock vaccines for children," said Dr. Swannie Jett, Health Officer for the Department of Health in Seminole County.

The Florida Department of Health in Orange County provides immunizations Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 2:00pm at its Central Office located at 832 West Central Boulevard. Parents are urged to arrive early to obtain a walk-in ticket as services are provided on a walk-in basis.

In Seminole County, immunizations are provided at the health department's Sanford facility located at 400 West Airport Boulevard, Sanford, Florida, 32773. Hours of operation for the Immunization Clinic in Sanford are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 3:30pm except for the 2nd Thursday of each month when hours are 8:00am to 11:30am.

Due to the high demand for immunizations, services in both counties are provided on a **first come, first served, walk-in** basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult family member or legal guardian to receive immunizations.

For more information about NIIW, please visit the CDC resource site at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/overview.html>.

###

Florida Department of Health in Orange County

6101 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, FL 32809
PHONE: 407-858-1400 • FAX 407-858-5517
www.orchd.com

www.FloridasHealth.com

TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh